

# NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD

Farm Products will Buy More Lumber and Building Material Now THAN BEFORE THE WAR OR AFTER IT IS ENDED.

IF YOU NEED A HOME, A BARN, OR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, BUILD THEM NOW!

The question is not how many dollars will it cost, but how much more lumber will your farm products (the things you have to exchange) buy now and how many dollars will you have left?

Right now the Prospective Builder has two problems to solve—two questions to answer.

First:—Should I build my new house, my new barn, or make any improvements on my farm during war times, and will it be unpatriotic to do so?

Second:—Should I postpone building now because lumber, building materials and labor are high, and will they be any cheaper when the war is over?

We want to answer both of these questions by quoting the highest disinterested authorities. Read the the letter of the Secretary of the

Treasury, W. G. McAdoo, to Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, and the editorials from "Successful Farming," and the "Breeder's Gazette."

The daily press recently carried news items under Washington date lines to the effect that the Secretary had issued orders prohibiting building and that it would be unpatriotic to do so during war times.

A committee went to Washington to interview Mr. McAdoo and to obtain the facts. His letter gives the answer and he personally urged the committee to make such use of it as might be necessary to correct any false impressions. Read it, along with the two editorials!

Extract from Letter of Mr. McAdoo to President Sam'l Gompers.

"OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Gompers:—

I have your letter of February 18th, including copy of a resolution adopted by the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, in which it is stated that I have been reported in the public press as having 'appealed to property owners not to construct any homes or buildings during the war.' This is entirely erroneous. I have said that building operations which are not required to protect the health or provide for the comfortable needs of our people, or to supply facilities necessary for the proper conduct of business essential to the successful prosecution of the war, should be postponed.

As you know, I have no authority to direct that building operations be curtailed. I have merely suggested that unnecessary work of that kind be postponed until the end of the war. Such postponement would, I am sure, help win the war, but every patriotic man must be determined by his own conscience in the matter and must decide for himself if he can postpone the erection of a contemplated building until the war is over. Compliance with this suggestion may cause some inconveniences, which are to be greatly deplored, but such inconveniences are an unavoidable incident of the war. The situation must be viewed from a national and not from a local standpoint.

(Signed) W. G. McADOO,  
Secretary of the Treasury."

Editorial Breeder's Gazette, April 18th.

The Council of Defense, the Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture all encourage farm building activity. They do so because adequate equipment on the farm means better farming and more of it. This is regarded as one of the obvious ways of stimulating crop and live stock production.

Because of this official sanction of the erection of more and better buildings in the country, the railways are permitted and advised to accept building materials for prompt shipment to country points. To a large extent this policy is economical of transportation facilities because cars going countryward loaded with cement or lumber can come back loaded with grain.

The important thing about the problem from the farmer's standpoint is that the continuation of farm building operations during the war is considered by the nation's expert economists to be the policy of greatest national efficiency. That fact of itself should encourage a farmer to proceed with the plans he may have been considering for years to use his first available funds to make his farm a handier place to work, and to provide better storage room for grain and hay as well as warmer shelter for stock.

Building material is perhaps 25 per cent higher than before the war. Crop values offset that, for even after allowing for higher farm operating costs, the net income from crops has increased still more. It is therefore a fact that a man can better afford to erect needed farm buildings now than two or three years ago. Masons and carpenters are available for such work because city building enterprises have been checked by the war, and these men prefer to continue at their trades rather than to learn something new. By keeping these skilled workmen busy on farm buildings they may be made indirectly to alleviate to some extent the farm labor shortage, and do so more effectively than at actual farm work.

Editorial "Successful Farming," for May.

WHEN PRICES ARE TOO HIGH.

There is a vast difference between prices that are high and prices that are too high. After all, prices are merely relative as to whether they are high or low. The real question is how much can be obtained for what a person has to give in exchange. If a man has hogs, horses, butter, wheat, corn, hay or other products of the farm and needs plows, manure spreaders, cultivators, binders, harness or what not, the price of the products he has to sell or the products he must buy are high or low in proportion to the amount of one product required to purchase a given amount of another product. If it takes eight hogs of a given weight to purchase a manure spreader of a certain size and make, wherein is the difference whether the hogs sell for 7 cents a pound and the manure spreader for \$75 or the hogs for 14 cents a pound and the spreader for \$150?

As a matter of fact, the average price of hogs for the five years preceding our entrance into the war was 7 cents. It took eight two-hundred pound hogs to buy a manure spreader. With the prices now prevailing, eight two-hundred pound hogs will sell for enough to buy the same spreader at its increased price, and there will be a surplus of almost \$100.

The average price of wheat for the five years before we entered the war was 88 cents. It took ninety bushels to buy an \$80 grain drill. Sell ninety bushels of wheat now and you will have more than \$80 surplus after purchasing the drill. The more fact that it requires more dollars to purchase a given article than it did a few months or years ago does not prove conclusively that it is more costly. It is only by comparing the cost of one article with the cost of other articles that it is possible to determine whether or not its price has unduly advanced.

There is much complaint of prices being too high or too low. Some of the complaint is justifiable and some of it is not. In the extremely unusual times through which we are passing, it is inevitable that the prices of some commodities should get out of their proper relation to other commodities. In such cases there is good ground for complaint.

There is no better method for determining whether the price for a given article is too high or too low than by comparing it with the price of other articles. If it requires more bushels of corn, wheat, or oats, or more hogs or cattle to buy a given article or to hire a certain amount of labor, than it did five years ago, then either the price of the article or the labor has increased too much or the price of the farm products has not increased enough.

By making such comparisons it is possible to detect the commodities whose prices are not in the proper relation to the prices of other commodities. It is not possible to do so by merely considering the number of dollars for which an article is bought or sold.

You are certainly, after a study of the above, not only convinced that you should, but that you are urged to build necessary homes, barns and make other improvements in order to preserve and care for grain and live stock.

Certainly you should not wait until after the war in expectation that you will be able to "buy cheaper," for there will not only be a "Building Boom" in this country after the war, but the forests of the United States will be called upon to supply the world with lumber.

Lumber that sold for \$3.00 per hundred before the war, and now sells for \$4.00, has only advanced in price 33 1-3 per cent.

Lumber that sold for \$4.00 per hundred before the war, and now sells for \$5.00, has only advanced in price 25 per cent.

Shingles that sold at \$4.00 per thousand before the war, and now sell at \$5.00, have only advanced in price 25 per cent.

The Saturday Evening Post recently said, editorially:—"Lumber and building materials have gone up least of any of the big groups of commodities, fuel and lighting are next to the bottom. Drugs and chemicals stand at the top, with an increase of a hundred and thirty per cent. Cloths and clothing come next, but farm products push them hard for second place."

It is not a question of how many more dollars does it cost to build now but how much more Lumber and Building Material will your Hay, Corn, Oats, Wheat, Hogs or Cattle buy now than before or after the war? Any number of bushels or pounds will do more building now and you will have more money left.

FREIGHT ON LUMBER WILL ADVANCE 25% JUNE 25--MAKE YOUR CONTRACTS NOW

## J. R. MOOREHEAD

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